

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 10, 2004. Claims 1 to 27, 34 to 73, 88 to 127 and 142 to 158 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 34, 51, 88, 105 and 142 are independent. Claims 28 to 33, 74 to 87 and 128 to 141 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Claims 1, 34, 51, 88, 105 and 142 are being amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Turning first to a formal matter involving drawings, Applicants note that they have not yet received approval for their Request For Approval Of Drawings Changes dated August 29, 2001. Since this Request was filed under old rules pertaining to drawings, and since those rules have since been changed, Applicants will proceed to effect the requested drawing changes at their end, and to submit revised formal drawings at a later date. Should the Examiner disapprove of this procedure, such indication is respectfully requested in the next Office Action.

Claims 1 to 21, 23, 24, 27, 34¹ to 45, 47, 48, 50 to 67, 69 to 73, 88 to 99, 101 to 121, 123, 124, 142 to 153, 155, 156 and 158 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,862,321 (Lamming), and Claims 22, 25, 26, 46, 49, 68, 100, 122, 125, 154 and 157 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lamming and U.S. Patent No. 6,397,261 (Eldridge). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

¹ Although Claim 34 is not included in the listing of Claims in paragraph 3, at page 2 of the Office Action, it is assumed that Claim 34 was intended to be included. The Examiner is requested to clarify this point in the next Office Action.

The present invention generally concerns reproduction of data stored by a network server, such that the stored reproduction data can be reproduced by any of a number of reproduction devices regardless of the data format expected by the reproduction device. More particularly, the present invention concerns a data reproduction system and method in which data selected for reproduction is stored in a network server without reference to a specific device to be used to reproduce the data. The stored data can then be accessed in a separate request in which a reproduction device is selected to reproduce the data.

By virtue of this arrangement, a reproduction request may be made without the need to identify the device that is to satisfy the request. Data may be formatted, or reformatted, dynamically to accommodate the various reproduction device selections. Thus, it is possible to reproduce the data using various reproduction devices, or to divert the data to a different reproduction device after the data is selected for reproduction. Further, by separating the data and device selections, it is not necessary that a device be installed on a user's computer in order to direct the reproduction data to the device.

Turning to the specific language of the claims, Claim 1 defines a data storing and reproducing system using a computer network, which comprises a server, at least one attachment unit coupled to the server, and first and second reproduction devices coupled to the at least one attachment unit. The server comprises means for storing reproduction data in response to a request to reproduce data without reference to a specific reproduction device. The at least one attachment unit comprises means for interfacing with a portable memory device having a reference to the reproduction data. The first

reproduction device is capable of performing a first reproduction of the reproduction data and the second reproduction device is capable of performing a second reproduction of the reproduction data, the second data reproduction being different than the first data reproduction. Wherein, in response to selection of a function to be performed by one of the first and second reproduction devices using the stored reproduction data, the at least one attachment unit requests the stored reproduction data from the server, and the server responds to the request from the at least one attachment unit by transmitting the reproduction data. Where the stored reproduction data is determined to be a format unsuitable for the selected function to be performed by the reproduction device, the data is reformatted for use by the reproduction device.

The applied art, namely Lamming, is not seen to show each and every one of the above-identified features, particularly as regards storing data as reproduction data in response to a request to reproduce the data without reference to a specific reproduction device, requesting the stored reproduction data in response to selection of a function to be performed by one of the first and second reproduction devices, and converting the reproduction data to a format suitable for the selected operation and reproduction device where it is determined that the stored reproduction data's format is unsuitable.

Lamming is seen to describe distributing documents using a token representing the document. More particularly, using portable electronic devices, documents are distributed from one person to another by transmitting the token. Similarly, a document is sent to print by sending the token to the printer. (See Lamming, Abstract) Reference is respectfully made to Figures 6(a) to 6(f), which illustrate the reproduction

requests seen to be described in Lamming. More particularly, Lamming is seen to show a request to reproduce data in which both the data and the device that is to reproduce the data are identified.

Thus, Lamming is not seen to show storing data as reproduction data in response to a request to reproduce the data without reference to a specific reproduction device, requesting the stored reproduction data in response to selection of a function to be performed by one of the first and second reproduction devices, and converting the reproduction data to a format suitable for the selected operation and reproduction device where it is determined that the reproduction data's formation is unsuitable.

Eldridge has been carefully reviewed and is not seen to remedy the deficiencies noted with respect to Lamming.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Further, Applicants submit that Claims 34, 51, 88, 105 and 142 are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

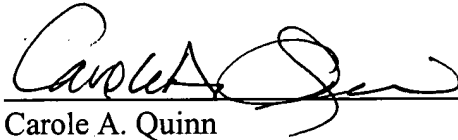
The other claims are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,

California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carole A. Quinn", written over a horizontal line.

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